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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 SAB-02 /056 W
----------071435 151713Z /47
O R 151616Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2789
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PBOR, PN
SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - MINISTER'S REPLY TO INDEPENDENT LAWYERS

REF: PANAM 5052

1. FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALW-REVILLA REPLIED TO THE INDEPENDENT LAWYERS' CALL FOR DISCLOSURE OF NEGOTIATING DETAILS (REFTEL) BY REJECTING DEBATE OVER PARTIAL AGREEMENTS AND ATTRIBUTING THE LAWYERS' DEMAND TO "ULTERIOR PERSONAL OBJECTIVES". HIS OPEN LETTER WAS READ ON TELEVISION THURSDAY NIGHT AND PUBLISHED (BUT NOT PROMINENTLY PLAYED) IN ALL JULY 15 MORNING PAPERS (FBIS/PANAMA PA 150318Y).

2. HE REAFFIRMED GOP OBJECTIVE OF DECOLONIZATION, END OF FOREIGN PRESENCE, AND PANAMANIAN OPERATION AND DEFENSE OF CANAL AS SAFE, EXPEDITIOUS PASSAGE FREE TO ALL NATIONS. BUT THIS COULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY A "TRANSACTIONAL EQUILIBRIUM" OR BALANCED COMPROMISE IN WHICH ALL PARTIES MUST ESCHEW ATTEMPTS TO MAKE THEIR OWN VIEWS PREVAIL. A TREATY BASED UPON THE RECOGNITION OF PANAMANIAN SOVEREIGNTY IN THE DECLARATION OF
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FEBRUARY 7, 1974 WOULD ACHIEVE PANAMA'S NATIONAL AIMS.

3. A COMPLEX REALITY, GONZALEZ-REVILLA SAID, HAD NECESSITATED "CONCEPTUAL ACCORDS OF A PRELIMINARY AND PREPARATORY NATURE... TO CLEAR AWAY PARTIAL ISSUES WITH A VIEW TOWARDS REACHING AN ACCORD ON THE WHOLE." BUT NONE OF THESE ARE YET "DEFINITE NOR DO THEY CONSTITUTE A FINAL OBLIGATION". A GLOBAL DISCUSSION WOULD BE

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NEITHER OPPORTUNE NOR FRUITFUL UNTIL NEGOTIATION PRODUCED A FINAL TREATY WHICH WAS A UNITY OF PROPERLY CORRELATED PARTS.

4. HE CONTINUED: "THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IS PRESENTLY IN ITS CONCLUDING STAGE, WHICH MEANS THAT EITHER IT WILL END IN A TREATY DRAFT THAT WILL SATISFY ALL NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS OR THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE TERMINATED BECAUSE WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE INDEFINITELY".

5. AN ATTEMPT TO START A "DRIVE AGAINST A GREATY WHICH DOES NOT EXIST", GONZALEZ SAID, "REVEALS A LACK OF SOBRIETY AND RESPECT FOR PUBLIC OPINION", WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO "ULTERIOR PERSONAL OBJECTIVES" OF PERSONS OR GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY "WHOSE POLITICAL IDEAS DO NOT COINCIDE WITH OURS". "THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM AND THE RESPECT OWED TO PUBLIC OPINION ADVISES US NOT TO INITIATE AN EXPOSITION AND DISCUSSION OF A TREATY WHICH STILL DOES NOT EXIST AND WHICH MIGHT NOT GET TOEXIST."

6. HE REPEATED GOP INTENTION "TO PLACE AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE CITIZENRY ALL DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS PERTAINING TO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AFTER IT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED" SO THAT AN OBJECTIVE PUBLIC DISUCSSION MIGHT PREPARE FOR THE NATIONAL PLEBISCITE.

7. COMMENT: GONZALEZ-REVILLA'S RESPONSE BOILS DOWN TO A GOP
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DETERMINATION NOT TO BE BULLDOZED INTO A PREMATURE PUBLIC DISCUSSION IN WHICH IT WOULD BE TACTICALLY EXPOSED BEFORE SEVERAL DOMESTIC SECTORS. "MATUTINO" FOR JULY 15 EDITORIALIZED ALONG THE SAME GENERAL LINES, WITHOUT DIRECTLY MENTIONING EITHER THE LAWYERS' LETTER OR THE MINISTER'S REPLY. THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER COMMENT ON THIS EXCHANGE AS YET. END COMMENT.
GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, NEGOTIATIONS, CANALS, ATTORNEYS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA05086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770753/aaaabtme.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PANAMA 5052
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1848985
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - MINISTER\'S REPLY TO INDEPENDENT LAWYERS
TAGS: PINT, PBOR, EWWT, SOPN, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c47c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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